



AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nelson Linder, Chair
Sherry Cherry
Wayne Cook
Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Clifford Gillard
Daryl Horton
Greg Smith, Vice Chair

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ms. Susana Almanza of PODER spoke to the Commission regarding the proposed Urban Farm Ordinance. Ms. Almanza stated that the ordinance would create commercial uses for single family lots in East Austin and could lead to further gentrification of the area.

THERE MAY BE DISCUSSION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

2. Approval of the minutes from the September 11, 2013 Regular Meeting

The minutes stand as presented.

3. Updates from Working Groups

a. Small Business/Parking Issues on E. 11th & E. 12th Streets

On September 19th the working group met with City Staff members and stakeholders from the community, strategies were discussed. City Staff would like to do a parking study of the area which would include E. 11th Street and E. 12th Street, but would encompass a larger area.

b. Photograph Selection for Mural

The working group has met with Deputy City Manager McDonald and the work to the art piece has been approved, which would include 22 additional portraits added to the existing mural and the addition of 2 benches which would include space to add additional portraits in the future. The artist will be in Austin during October for a site visit.

c. Health and Mental Health

The working group has met with the Health & Human Services Department staff to present the DVD of the public service announcement. HHSD gave their approval of the PSA.

4. **Discussion and Action:** Commission Recommendation for Additional Funding in the Health & Human Services Department FY 2013-14 Budget for Health and Mental Health Issues in the African American Community (Health and Mental Health Working Group)

A motion to approve the Recommendation to the City Council to provide financial support in the amount of \$130,000 to the Health & Human Services Department for an education and awareness campaign was made by Commissioner Smith; seconded by Commissioner Cherry. Vote 7-0.

5. **Discussion and Action:** Commission Recommendation in support of the \$65 million Affordable Housing Bond Proposal on the November 5, 2013 ballot

A motion to approve the Recommendation to the City Council in support of the \$65 million Affordable Housing Bond proposal on the November 5, 2013 ballot was made by Commissioner Gillard; seconded by Commissioner Smith. Vote 7-0.

6. **Discussion and Action:** Commission Recommendation for the City Council to provide financial support for :

- a. Designation of key city-owned vacant properties specifically along the all-crucial 11th & 12th Street corridors as "African American Cultural Heritage District-critical";
- b. Initiation of a moratorium in which the sale of any City-owned properties within the African American Cultural Heritage District "critical zone" require first a review of the proposed purchase by the African American Resource Advisory Commission to determine if the intended use of the property aligns with its location and significance within the African American Cultural Heritage District;
- c. Offer financial incentives and technical support to the few remaining African American businesses and venues within the African American Cultural Heritage District so that there is real accountability to the City's promise/mission to meet the needs set forth in the African American Quality of Life Initiative; and
- d. Identify viable ways to attract, nurture and maintain local African American businesses within the African American Cultural Heritage District

Mr. Adrian Neely spoke in favor of the recommendation.

Mr. Harold McMillan spoke in favor of the recommendation.

Mr. Gene Mays spoke in favor of the recommendation.

After some discussion the Commission determined that more information was needed and the item was postponed until the November 6, 2013 meeting.

7. **Discussion and Possible Action:** Public Safety Issues regarding citizen interaction with Austin Police Department and possible formation of Working Group

A working group was formed that will include Commissioner Cherry, Commissioner Cook, and Commissioner Gillard.

8. **Discussion and Action:** Election of Commission Officers for FY 2014

A motion to elect Commissioner Gregory Smith as Chair for FY 2014 was made by Commissioner Linder; seconded by Commissioner Cherry. Vote 6-0-1 with Commissioner Smith abstaining.

A motion to elect Commissioner Daryl Horton as Vice-Chair for FY2014 was made by Commissioner Eugene; seconded by Commissioner Smith. Vote 6-0-1 with Commissioner Horton abstaining.

9. Set agenda items for future meetings, including non-substantive housekeeping matters (such as meeting dates, potential topics, and information and research requests for staff)

For the November agenda: approval of Commission meeting dates for 2014, postponed Item 6 from above (Recommendation on African American Cultural Heritage District, African American businesses on E. 11th St. & E. 12th St.), and a presentation from the African American Cultural Heritage District.

For the December agenda: a presentation on urban farms, and a report from HHSD on HIV/AIDS.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.